Standing Committee's views:

The resolution draws attention to a very real problem and should be supported. Similar recommendation has been made by the Committee on Record Management (Para 2.12).

I. Introduction of National Readers Cards

(9) Resolution by Shri J.K. Jain:

"Resolved that a system of 'National Readers Cards' be introduced as it would facilitate and encourage genuine research in the country".

Explanatory Note:

The idea of issuing International Readers Cards has been attracting the attention of the archivists for the last many years but without success. Since the idea in itself is quite noble and practical at least at the National level, it is high time that an honest trial is given in our Country. The system besides saving a lot of time of the scholars in entering into a similar correspondence for seeking permission with many Archival Institutions of the Country, will also bring a regular coordination between the National Archives and the various State Archives. At the same time it will pave the way in bringing a uniformity in research rules and 'open period' of records, etc. for the researchers. Here it may be added that initially these cards could be issued to the University teaching staff and registered research scholars; and the cards could be issued both by the Director of National Archives as well as the Directors of State Archives of the Country.

Standing Committee's views:

The proposed resolution should be very welcome to all archivists as well as bonafide users of archives. The proposal to issue International Readers Cards, which would secure to scholars access to the archival repositories of every country joining the scheme, was recommended by the International Council on Archives some ten years ago, and was mentioned by the Director of Archives, National Archives of India, even in September, 1976 in his paper presented before the 8th International Congress on Archives at Washington, D.C., U.S.A. The wording of the resolution, however, might require some minor changes to make clear the applicability of the National Readers Cards to all the State Archives and to the National Archives of India.